

Témata pro státní všeobecnou jazykovou zkoušku z angličtiny

A. Konverzace

1. Course of Life: Infancy – childhood – adolescence – Adulthood – Old Age

- Characterization and description of an ideal partner.
- Wedding preparations, getting married, civil weddings, church weddings, honeymooning.
- What makes a happy and unhappy marriage?
- Reasons for discord in the family resulting in a divorce, financial problems, budget planner, monthly outgoings.
- Marriage guidance councils.
- Bringing up children and related problems: Planned Parenthood, generation gap, juvenile delinquency.
- Getting old: visible and invisible signs of aging.
- Making arrangements for a funeral: cremation, burial, expressing one's condolences.

2. Home and Furniture, Housing, House and Home

- Different kinds of dwellings, habitable and utility rooms.
- At the estate agent's: mortgage, building one's dream house, building materials, artisans.
- Layout of a house and its surroundings.
- How to cope with housing shortage.
- Furnishing one's flat: furniture, furnishing materials, equipment-labour and space saving devices.

3. Towns, Traffic, Public Services, Life in a Town

- Pros and cons of city life compared with life in a village.
- Asking the way, showing somebody round the sights and monuments.
- Municipal authorities, sanitation of a town.
- City transport, various means of transport.
- At the airport, at the railway station.
- Environmental and moral pollution: rising crime rate.

4. Shopping, Services

- Knowing one's rights: making complaints about faulty goods.
- Kinds of shops, services and repair shops.
- The role of advertising, sales, special offers and discounts, Hire Purchase, C.O.D., Christmas shopping.
- Showing somebody round a big department store, supermarket, shopping mall.

5. Daily Programme, Routine, Leisure Time Activities and Hobbies, Public and Social Activities, Socializing

- Learning foreign languages: importance of learning languages, how to study efficiently: the best methods used for teaching foreign languages, the Internet and modern audio-visual aids, an ideal teacher and an ideal student, different subjects taught at school, examinations taken at school, what do you like and dislike about your school?
- Differences between working days and weekends.
- Attending various meetings: procedure of a formal meeting.

- Partygoing: inviting and visiting one's friends, table manners and social behaviour, accepting and declining informal and formal invitations.
- Different kinds of hobbies: sports, collecting various objects, handicraft, taking and making pictures- description of a camera, gardening.

6. Jobs, Occupations, professions, Trades, Building up One's Career

- Unemployment and redundancy rates.
- Money and banks.
- Living on the dole, social security: unemployment benefit, sickness benefit, gross and take-home pay, taxes.
- Labour saving devices at home, how to cope with household duties.
- Traditional occupational structure in your city and region.
- Male and female au pairs.

7. Finance and Communication

- Postal services: writing formal and informal letters, sending parcels, telegrams and money.
- Telephoning: answer phones, the Internet, fax-machines.
- Money matters: banking.

8. Sports and Games

- What to do to keep fit and healthy.
- Risky and dangerous sports.
- Summer, winter and all-season sports.
- Professional and amateur sports.
- Track and field events.
- The Olympic Games and important international sports competitions.
- Hiking in the country: special gear and equipment needed for practising all kinds of sports.

9. The Human Body, Health and Sickness

- What to do to keep fit and healthy: healthy eating habits and importance of physical fitness, rational nutrition.
- Most frequent injuries and first aid, physical and mental handicaps.
- Description of a human body and the most important internal organs.
- Hospitalisation and medical care, at the G.P.'s.
- Incurable, environmental diseases, infections, children's diseases.
- Vaccination, prevention is better than cure.

10. Clothing, Dressing, Fashion

- Fashion magazines.
- Buying ready-made clothes, having clothes made to measure, at the tailor's.
- Fashion trends, accessories, footwear, what to wear on special occasions.

- Kinds of materials, colours, patterns.
- What to do to keep one's clothes clean and tidy.
- Positive and negative aspects of fashion.

11. Food and Meals

- Kinds of catering establishments, going to restaurants: ordering meals and drinks, booking the table.
- Specialities and national dishes in the Czech Republic, Britain and the U.S.A.
- Changing eating habits in the Czech Republic and Britain, principles of rational nutrition.
- Preparing your own speciality and refreshment for your guests.
- Setting the table for a special occasion.
- Home appliances and gadgets used for cooking.

12. Culture and Entertainment, the Arts

- Theatregoing, cinemagoing, concerts.
- Kinds of theatre performances and films.
- Where and how to book tickets.
- Description of a theatre: foyer, auditorium, stage.
- Fine arts: the most common subject matters and techniques, visiting galleries and art exhibitions.
- Watching TV, listening to the radio and music: musical instruments.

13. Life in a Village

- Pros and cons of life in a village.
- Description of a farmstead, animals and livestock bred on farms.
- Market gardening, arable farming – soil cultivation, principal types of cereal, harvesting.
- Eco-friendly farming, forestry and wildlife (fauna and flora).

14. Sightseeing, Showing Visitors round, on Holiday

- Going on holiday abroad, booking one's tour with a travel agency, pros and cons of services provided by travel agencies.
- My home town, Prague, other places of interest in the Czech Republic.
- What can influence the choice of holiday you prefer?
- The most attractive lures of historical urban reserves – various sights, architectural styles.
- What make some people prefer to spend their holiday in the country: refer to wildlife and scenic beauties.

15. Travel and Transport

- Various means of transport: going by air, train, car.
- Getting ready for motoring or camping holiday: checking the car and packing the luggage.
- Looking for accommodation, staying in a hotel, room service.
- Making necessary arrangements before setting out on a journey.

16. Climate and Weather, Farming, Gardening

- Typical weather and changes in nature in spring, summer, autumn and winter.

- What keeps the gardener busy throughout the whole year?
- Domestic animals and livestock kept on farms.
- Work in the field: plants grown in our country.
- Outdoor and indoor activities and what to wear to feel comfortable and to be properly dressed.
- Environmental problems.

17. The Environment, Nature, Animals and Plants

- What to do to be eco-friendly: industrial production, agricultural production.
- Alternative sources of energy, global warming and greenhouse effect.
- Natural disasters, map reading.
- Protection of wildlife, visiting the ZOOS.
- Pet-keeping, garden flowers and wild flowers.

18. The Media

- Radio, TV programmes, press, which of them do you like best and why?
- What does the wide range of newspapers, periodicals reflect? Do you subscribe to any of them?
- Censorship – its pros and cons.

19. Partygoing, Festivals and Celebrations

- Various parties, family celebrations and reunions, special occasions on which they are held.
- Christmas, New Year's Eve, graduation, promotion, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings.
- Compare traditions and customs that are observed in Great Britain, the U.S.A. and the Czech Republic on these occasions.
- Interpersonal communication – inviting friends, accepting and declining invitations, introductions, greetings, leave-takings, interrupting, expressing sympathy and other polite remarks, expressing ones feelings)pleasant, unpleasant).
- An ideal hostess and her duties.
- Refreshments and beverages, table manners and setting the table.
- Good manners: what is considered to be ill-mannered, what to do to be an easy guest?
- Social and party games, dancing.
- What to wear at formal and informal parties.
- What do you like and dislike about parties and guests?

20. Problems in Society, Science and Technology

- What causes the rising crime-rate and what counteracts should be taken.
- Race discrimination and racial segregation, prejudice.
- Is it true that people in our country are becoming more money-oriented and over-concerned with social and professional status-symbols?
- Isn't it high time we examined our priorities and found satisfaction in the spiritual aspects of life?
- Space flights: progress in science and technology.

Součástí každé konverzační otázky je popis obrázku k tématu a prokázání schopnosti komunikace v každodenních situacích.

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B. Cultural Background

1. THE EARLIEST BRITISH HISTORY TO THE PERIOD OF FEUDALISM

The Pre-Celtic and Celtic period, the Roman Britain period, the Anglo-Saxon period, the Norman Conquest, Henry II, the Magna Carta and the rise of feudalism.

2. THE DECLINE OF FEUDALISM IN BRITAIN, THE TUDOR PERIOD

The Hundred Years' War, the Wars of the Roses, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I (Shakespeare).

3. THE STUARTS AND THE PERIOD FROM THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION TO THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The House of Stuart, the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars (Defoe, Romantic writers – Scott, Byron).

4. THE VICTORIAN AGE AND WORLD WAR I

The Victorian Age – the reforms and movements, Britain in World War I (Dickens, Brontë sisters).

5. BRITAIN IN THE 20th CENTURY AFTER WORLD WAR I

Britain in World War II, Elizabeth II on the throne (Angry Young Men, Modern British Literature).

6. U.S. HISTORY FROM THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA TO THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

The discovery of America, the War of Independence, the birth of the United States (Cooper, Poe).

7. U.S. HISTORY FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The Civil War, World War I (Twain, London).

8. THE U.S.A. BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II

World War II, the change of presidency between Democrats and Republicans (modern American literature – Hemingway, Steinbeck, Updike, Hailey, etc).

9. GEOGRAPHY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Geographical description, political and administrative division, capital cities, the relief, rivers and lakes, the climate, scenic beauties and places of interest.

10. GEOGRAPHY OF THE U.S.A.

Geographical description, political and administrative division, the federal capital, the relief, rivers and lakes, the climate, scenic beauties and places of interest.

11. INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN

The key industries and the main industrial regions, agricultural production and fishing, exports / imports.

12. INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE IN THE U.S.A.

The main economic regions, natural resources and agricultural production, exports and imports.

13. THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN

The powers of the Monarch, the Houses of Parliament, the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, political parties.

14. THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN THE U.S.A.

The U.S. Federal Government and its branches (legislative, executive, judicial), the President, political parties.

15. THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE U.S.A.

Compulsory school attendance: primary, secondary and tertiary education: state-supported and private education.

16. ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES: CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Brief outline of geography, political systems, national economies, capitals, places of interest.

17. HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE U.S.A.

Holidays, festivals and celebrations in English-speaking countries, their origin.

18. OUTSTANDING BRITISH AND AMERICAN PERSONALITIES

Scientists and inventors, artists, architects, musicians, painters, actors and film producers, sportsmen.

19. THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Geography, places of interest, Prague.

20. THE PAST AND THE PRESENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Notable days in Czech history, current events and burning issues, world-famous Czech personalities.

U otázek, jejichž součástí jsou spisovatelé, uvedení v závorce, se od kandidáta vyžaduje stručná charakteristika a přehled díla jednoho z nich dle vlastního výběru.

C. Vyprávění o přečtené knize

Kandidát prokáže své schopnosti popsat děj a stručně charakterizovat postavy jedné z knih, které uvedl na přihlášce ke státní jazykové zkoušce.